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LETTER DATED 25 NOVEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with instructions I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, A. V. Kozyrev, addressed to you, concerning the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

Please have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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Annex

Letter dated 25 November 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

The situation in and around Bosnia is becoming increasingly alarming. Notwithstanding the efforts made in recent days, primarily by the Security Council, the escalation of military actions is continuing and the fighting is becoming increasingly fierce.

The latest resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 958 (1994) and 959 (1994), have confirmed the seriousness of the intentions of the world community, which will not accept senseless bloodshed.

Unfortunately, a number of resolutions of the Security Council are not being fully complied with, or are being implemented in such a way as to give rise to accusations of partiality.

I consider it essential in this connection to emphasize that the role of the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia is not to "compel" the parties to make peace, nor to wage war, but to give multilateral support to a peaceful political settlement.

The purpose of the creation by the Security Council of "safe areas" is to safeguard the civilian population; the protection of those areas by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) must not make that force a party to the conflict.

The form and the limits of NATO actions should be restricted to supporting UNPROFOR in the implementation of the latter's mandate, in strict compliance with existing Security Council resolutions.

Any enforcement actions should be carried out on the basis of the principles of proportionality, impartiality and timeliness.

It is important to ensure that the actions of NATO air power in Croatia and Bosnia are not disproportionate to the violations or inadequate to the situation, and that they do not give rise to a further escalation of the confrontation.

Moreover, everything has been happening against a clearly defined political background. Statements have been made at a responsible political level by a number of countries seeking to provide justification for the Bosnian Muslims, who had initiated the hostilities - and had done so from within the "safe area" - and there has been increasing insistence on the necessity of punishing the Serbs.

In our opinion, a real danger is emerging of UNPROFOR going beyond the limits of the mission assigned to it, becoming drawn into hostilities and

thereby creating the impression of the United Nations force virtually taking the side of one of the parties to the conflict.

Bearing in mind the above, I would ask you to give the most serious attention to the circumstances described in order not to allow a de facto change in the mandate of UNPROFOR, a situation which could only lead to a further escalation of the conflict.

I also request you to expedite the submission to the Security Council of a report on the stabilization of the situation in and around the Bihać "safe area", and on the implementation of the entire concept of "safe areas". One of the key issues is the safety of the peace-keeping contingents, both now and in the future. It is essential to deal with that in particular detail in the report. Russia will need the report in order to take a decision concerning our position on the future of the UNPROFOR operation, as well as on further participation in it by the Russian military contingent.

A. KOZYREV